

CIA recruiter is splattered with paint by OSU student Communist protesters

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A CIA recruiter had completed her interviews with several OSU students Tuesday morning and was preparing to leave for lunch when she was doused with red paint by a campus group protesting CIA involvement in Iran, OSU officials said.

The incident occurred at 11 a.m. when about 10 students walked into the Engineering College placement center at Hitchcock Hall, read a short statement, then splashed paint on CIA recruiter Linda Iacelli, officials said.

Two other people, Engineering College placement director Tarver Hagan, and a secretary, were also hit with paint.

The incident was a part of a demonstration conducted by the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, a campus group, along with some Iranian students.

Debbie Hollister, a member, said the organization is the youth group of the Revolutionary Communist Party of the U.S.A.

She said the Iranian students involved were not part of an organized group. Members of a second organization, The National United Workers Organization were also involved in the demonstration, she said.

Hagan said the incident "happened very quickly. They walked in, one student read a statement, a second student — a girl — stepped forward and threw the paint and they walked out."

"I don't think Iranians were involved in the paint throwing," he said. "At least, I didn't see Iranian students in the group. The students didn't look like Iranians."

A CIA spokesman in Langley, Va., said Ms. Iacelli is a professional recruiting officer. She has been on college campuses before and her trips are arranged through college placement offices.

"There is nothing unusual about it. We do it nationwide," the CIA spokesman said. "She was overt about what she was doing on campus."

University spokesman said her visit was posted. She was interested in talking to June and August 1979 graduates in electronics and computer information science.

Ms. Hollister said two of the demonstrators carried a large banner with the inscription "Victory to the Iranian People's Revolutionary Struggle... Run the CIA off our Campus."

The red paint was supposed to be "symbolic" of the blood debt to the people of Iran as well as people of other parts of the world, she said.

Outside Hitchcock Hall, students chanted, "CIA better run, people of Iran are picking up the guns" and "USA get out of Iran, CIA get off our campus."

After the paint was thrown, Paul Hollister told outside demonstrators the CIA recruiter "got a taste of symbolic blood."

Neither Paul nor Debbie Hollister would identify the person who threw the paint at Ms. Iacelli or the person who read the short statement before the paint was thrown.

They said the gist of the statement was that the CIA engineered the coup that put the shah in power in 1953, that the interests of the CIA are not the interests of the people and the CIA owes a blood debt to the people of Iran.